Pending Cases before I.T.A.T.

*153. SHRI V.P. DURAISAMY: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how many income tax cases are pending before the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal as on 31st January, 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to abolish the stage of appeal in the High Courts to reduce the number of pending cases; and

(d) if answer to part (c) be in affirmative, whether Government would amend the Income Tax law?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) 2,46,782 cases were pending before the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal as on 31st January, 2001;

(b) A statement is attached (*See* below).

(c) and (d) Government has not formed any view in the matter as yet.

Statement

Bench-wise pendency of cases before the Income-Tax Appellate Tribunal for the month of January, 2001.

BENCHES	PENDENCY
MUMBAI	52788
PUNE	7079
NAGPUR	2545
PANAJI	2706
DELHI	40218
ALLAHABAD	11412
LUCKNOW	—
JABALPUR	1343
AGRA	4958
CALCUTTA	14727
PATNA	1545

BENCHES	PENDENCY
CUTTACK	2676
GUWAHATI	2750
CHENNAI	20526
COCHIN	2377
AHMEDABAD	22462
INDORE	5510
RAJKOT	4664
HYDERABAD	5265
BANGALORE	7238
VISAKHAPATNAM	3718
CHANDIGARH	10378
AMRITSAR	5449
JAIPUR	7214
JODHPUR	7233
TOTAL:	246782

Clearances to High Power Transmitters to Combat Pakistan TV

*154. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a request of the Border States namely Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Bihar for expediting clearance to installation of high power transmitters, radio stations dedicated radio and TV channels to combat Pakistan TV;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Request for setting up radio stations and High Power TV/radio transmitters are received from time to time from various quarters. It has been the constant endeavour of the Government to provide better broadcast/telecast facilities in border states subject to availability of resources and *inter-se* priorities. Schemes to strengthen AIR/ Doordarshan coverage in J&K are already under implementation. Details of